**Follow Up Guidance to August 2018 Vocational Habilitation Memo**

***Attention:***

***All Providers*** *(or choose Provider Agencies or Independent Providers, specifically)*

***County Boards*** *(or choose SSAs or Superintendents, specifically)*

***Business Managers, CEOs, COG Directors, DCs, ICFs***

***County Boards and Vocational Habilitation Providers.***

**Message**

The Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities (DODD) would like to provide clarification to providers certified to provide the Vocational Habilitation service. The Vocational Habilitation memo issued on August 6, 2018, contained the following statement:

*“All vocational habilitation providers should review current practices and determine if services are delivered in accordance with the federal regulations described above. If a provider identifies an area of non-compliance with compensation standards, the provider must develop a plan by August 1, 2019, indicating how they will resolve the issue. The plan should include a realistic timeline for achieving compliance.”*

DODD has convened The Payment in Adult Day and Employment Services workgroup, which is comprised of a diverse group of stakeholders. The workgroup’s mission is to help support service providers in their efforts to align with state and federal regulations as they continue to transform their services, their organizations, and the lives of the people with developmental disabilities they support.

As a result of conversations with the workgroup, DODD is modifying its previous guidance - an agency specific plan to ensure compliance with the compensation requirements is **NOT** required by August 1, 2019. In lieu of the agency specific plans, the Payment in Adult Day and Employment Services Work Group has developed a framework for aligning the vocational habilitation service delivery with federal and state requirements which includes compliance with compensation standards. DODD will begin implementation of the work group’s framework over the next year.

The guidance issued by the Department on August 6, 2018 is attached and the Department remains committed to the principles contained in that guidance. Through the workgroup, we have agreed to make one minor edit to the previously issued guidance. On page 2 of the guidance, we indicated that payment must be made at 50% of the federal minimum wage. We now believe that it would be appropriate for payment to be made at 50% of Ohio minimum wage. The August 6, 2018 guidance has been updated to reflect this change and is attached.

Providers of the Vocational Habilitation service are asked to monitor the work of the Payment in Adult Day and Employment Services Work Group and ensure compliance with [effective service rules](http://dodd.ohio.gov/RulesLaws/Pages/RulesInEffect.aspx) and to ensure compliance with all revisions to the vocational habilitation service as they become effective.